

W Y M O N D H A M U R B A N D I S T R I C T

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

1953

of the

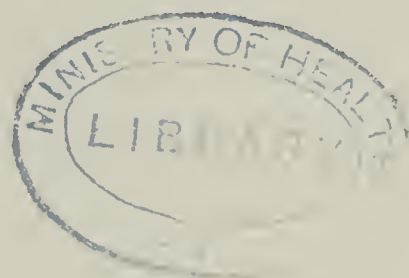
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH


together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR





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Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953. As I have been appointed to your Council quite recently, this Report is written, so to speak, on behalf of my predecessor. I must apologise, therefore, for the fact that the contents are largely factual and somewhat concise.

Administration.

Dr. A. E. Brown continued as Medical Officer of Health until his resignation in August to take up an appointment abroad. Dr. A. E. Lorerzen, Senior Assistant Medical Officer, acted in the vacancy until the end of the year, except during October when Dr. Brown resumed duty for a short period. Mr. R. F. Hudson, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., a copy of whose Report for 1953 is appended, held the appointment of Sanitary Inspector to your Council throughout the year. He was assisted by Mr. F. O. Elliott. It may be recorded here that Mr. Elliott was seconded to the County Borough of Great Yarmouth during the February coastal flood period and his services were very much appreciated by the Medical Officer of Health of Great Yarmouth.

Clerical Assistance for your Medical Officer was carried out at the Aspland Road Health Office, Norwich, as in the previous year. There is little doubt that centralisation of the work of the health department for Area 5, as a whole, is good administrative policy. Apart from the question of saving time and travelling expenses the administrative work connected particularly with the control of infectious diseases, food poisoning, milk supplies, and housing, involves very often more than one Council Area at one and the same time. Moreover, the centralised office permits ready communication with those officers whose work is intimately concerned with the Medical Officer of Health in his district duties: the Welfare Officers, the Children's Officer, the County Surveyor, the Bacteriologist, and other County Officers whose functions have a bearing on District health and welfare work.

Vital Statistics.

(a) Population. The Registrar General estimates the population of Wymondham Urban District at 5,693. The 1951 census figure was 5,664.

(b) There were 90 live births during the year and 65 deaths. In 1952 there were 80 live births and 81 deaths. The crude death rate at 11.4 is exactly the same as that for the whole of England and Wales, and the birth rate was 15.8 compared with 15.5 for England and Wales.

(c) There were two deaths in infants under one year of age; both died not many days after birth, one from broncho-pneumonia, the other from prematurity. The infant mortality rate (i.e. deaths under one year per 1,000 live births) was 22.2. The infantile death rate for England and Wales was 26.8. There was one still birth. This satisfactory position reflects credit on medical practitioners, nurses, health visitors, and volunteer workers who render service to mothers and infants.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 109 notified cases of infectious diseases, details of which are shown in Table 13.

(a) Whooping-Cough, accounted for 78 of the 109 infectious diseases notified. Immunisation with whooping-cough vaccine, as approved by the Ministry of Health, was introduced as a County Scheme in May 1953 and is becoming increasingly popular.

... be given separately or combined with the diphtheria antigen so that inoculation against both diseases can be given at one and the same time. The evidence available so far suggests that whooping-cough immunisation is not so complete as that for diphtheria, but, if not prevented in all cases, the severity of the attack is certainly lessened; of particular importance is the fact that immunisation in the early months of life reduces considerably the high infant mortality rate from whooping-cough so apparent in the past.

(b) Diphtheria. No cases of diphtheria were reported and no cases have occurred in the Wymondham area for a number of years. To keep diphtheria at bay it is considered that 70% of persons in the community should be rendered immune; at present something like 90% of children in Area 5 are entering adult life with good immunity. Primary immunisations are carried out by general practitioners, at infant welfare centres, and at schools. The giving of single "booster" injections in schools has now become routine practice, and these have increased from 453 in 1950 to just under 1,900 in 1953 (Area 5). Before 1941 diphtheria claimed about 2,500 deaths in England and Wales and about 40,000 to 50,000 children suffered from this disease. In 1952 there were only 376 cases and 32 deaths. These figures are cold statistics but it requires little warmth of imagination to appreciate what these figures signify in the prevention of suffering to children and anxiety to parents; moreover, the saving of the costs of hospitalisation and general medical expenses must be considerable. But what of the cost of immunisation? Here again are some figures: Total Government grants to local health authorities 1952-53 were approximately 18½ million pounds. Out of this sum an item such as ambulance services cost 4½ million pounds, while the cost of vaccination and immunisation services for the whole country was only £243,000.

(c) Scarlet Fever. Nine notified cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the town in 1953. This disease has become very mild in character and responds well to treatment with penicillin and the sulpha drugs; the fact that the disease is mild increases the danger of spread through "missed" cases. Strict precautions to control the spread of the disease are still maintained for there is always the possibility that the causative organism may again assume its former virulence.

Eight of the nine cases occurred in children aged 3 to 11 years and one case was a woman of 24. Three cases occurred in January and the others intermittently from March to September.

(d) Psittacosis. A case of this rather rare disease occurred at Norwich Road, Wymondham. The patient was employed at a local farm in charge of ducks. A high mortality amongst these ducks was observed and an investigation proved that diseased ducks caused the psittacosis. Precautions were taken to prevent any further spread of the disease and all ducks involved were slaughtered.

(e) Anterior Poliomyelitis. Two cases were notified, one a boy six years old, and the other a boy of seven. Considerable attention continued to be focussed on this disease. With regard to control measures the present position may be summed up by a quotation from the World Health Organisation expert committee.

"The accumulated laboratory and epidemiological evidence indicates that poliomyelitis is a highly infectious disease spread by intimate association with infected persons. It is probable that the virus is actually transferred directly or indirectly by means of pharyngeal excretions and faecal matter".

The standard methods of control as applied by health officers with many infectious diseases have been found to be of little avail in poliomyelitis. Part of the reason for the apparent failure of isolation and quarantine measures to check the spread of infection may lie in the fact that for every case of paralysis there may be a large number of persons with mild or inapparent

infection. However, virus studies have shown that, during epidemic periods, virus is found mainly in the intimate associates of the case. It appears possible, therefore, that some reduction in the number of cases of poliomyelitis might be achieved by vigorous quarantine and hygiene measures directed at the first recognised case".

"Because of prolonged excretion of virus in the stools, it is probably advisable that patients should be isolated, if necessary at home, but it is difficult to make a firm recommendation as to the length of time because it is not known when the individual case becomes free from infection. There would appear to be much to commend the practice in some countries of isolating cases and quarantining contacts for three weeks. Under conditions where virus may spread rapidly, such as nursery schools and residential nurseries, it may be desirable to exclude convalescent poliomyelitis cases for several weeks".

(f) Tuberculosis. Only two new cases of Tuberculosis were notified in 1953 compared with nine cases in 1952. Family contacts of cases are X-rayed and supervised by the Norwich Chest Clinic and special attention is paid to home sanitation and hygiene in houses where cases occur. The Health Visitor plays an important part in this work. Where necessary the family in which a case occurs is given priority for re-housing.

(g) Cancer. Deaths due to Cancer were the lowest recorded for a number of years; there were eight deaths compared with 14 in 1952 and 15 in 1951.

Water Supplies.

Details of water supplies are given in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector which follows this Report. Chemical and bacteriological examinations carried out during the year gave satisfactory results. Large scale improvements to the treatment of the raw water at the headworks are under consideration at the time of writing this Report.

The question of the fluoridation of water supplies has been discussed in previous Annual Reports. There is little to add to what has already been said on the desirability of introducing this useful public health measure approved by the medical profession as a whole.

School children today have a fair share of tension and anxiety: they have to put up with embarrassing medical and dental inspections; they are jabbed with needles and lucky if they escape the tedium of foot exercises; the ear-nose-and-throat specialist is perpetually ready to pounce; worst of all are the horrors of the dentist's chair. These disturbances are, of course, for ultimate good but anything that contributes to easing the pangs of growing-up should be vigorously pursued. The arrest of dental decay would be a precious gift to otherwise healthy children and fluoridation of water supplies is the sensible way to offer it.

It is hardly necessary to mention the fact that the arrest of dental decay means a considerable saving of public money.

The Government Mission sent to the United States in February 1952 to report on fluoridation was quite satisfied that considerable benefit would result from the addition of fluorides to drinking water which is naturally (or unnaturally) lacking in the quantity required to assist the growth and health of teeth. That the considered opinion of this Mission has not been generally accepted by public opinion everywhere is not in the least surprising. Distrust of the experts - men carefully trained by the community to seek the truth and give the answers - is well recognised, while the unrestrained babble of the misinformed is accepted as gospel. Patience must go hand-in-hand with progress in public health and correct results attained with the inevitability of gradualness.

As far as Wymondham is concerned it would be well to keep fluoridation in mind as a further step forward when the project for the new treatment plant is in operation; what is required at the moment is investigation into the mechanics, economics, and the degree of skilled supervision necessary with regard to the local water supply.

Milk.

(a) "Designated" and "Non-designated" milk. The designated milks are: "Tuberculin Tested Milk" (milk from herds officially certified as free from tuberculosis and known as "attested" herds); "Accredited Milk" (milk from a single herd the animals in which are submitted to periodic veterinary examinations); "Pasteurised Milk" (milk to which special heat treatment is given sufficient to destroy the tubercle bacillus and other pathogenic organisms). Pasteurised milk is not, of course, the same thing as milk designated as "sterilised" milk; pasteurised milk, if it is to remain fresh for a reasonable length of time, must be ~~clean~~ before pasteurisation. There is no significant difference in nutritive value between raw and pasteurised milk.

The question is often asked, "How much of the milk sold for human consumption is 'safe' and how much is sold 'raw' "? About 80% of milk sold for human consumption in England and Wales is designated milk.

Without carrying out a farm-to-farm survey, it is not possible at the moment to give figures showing the quantity of "safe" milk sold compared with "raw" milk in your Council Area. But out of a total of 39 producer-retailers and producer-wholesalers, 15 produce milk from T.T. herds and two produce accredited milk. Of the remainder, many send milk to pasteurisation plants and the balance is sold raw. Further detailed information on this subject is being sought in the light of the possible introduction of compulsory pasteurisation in the future.

(b) Milk and Disease. The common milk-borne disease of man are tuberculosis, typhoid fever, scarlatina, septic sore throat, undulant fever, diphtheria and infantile diarrhoea. Dysenteries and diseases caused by food poisoning or septic organisms, and foot-and-mouth disease are less common.

All milk supplies are sampled throughout the year by the staff of the County Sanitary Officer, and pasteurisation plants are frequently inspected. Action is taken by your Medical Officer on reports received dealing with infected milk.

Only one case of infected milk was reported from the Wymondham Urban District area - caused by a brucella abortus infection. As the milk from the herd concerned was sent to a pasteurisation plant, restrictions on the sale were not imposed.

In cases where bulk samples (taken from herd) are found to be positive for, say, tubercle bacilli or brucella abortus, restriction is placed on the milk supply, if it is sold raw, until the individual offending animal, or animals, have been detected. The restriction is then applied to the infected animal, or animals, only. Cows infected with tuberculosis and excreting tubercle bacilli in the milk are usually slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order 1938. In the case of brucella abortus infections, cows are considered infected for the duration of the current lactation period and are re-sampled when they come into milk again. In practice, most infected cows find their way to the slaughter-house, which is the best solution, for there is reason to believe a brucella abortus infection may be permanent.

(c) Milk from farm to consumer. Your Medical Officer visited the Milk Marketing Board depot at Harford Bridges and, having inspected the plant, was given full information regarding the methods and to ensure the cleanliness of the milk treated at the plant. The manager of the plant is most anxious to ensure that the milk reaches the retailers in the best condition possible and there is little to criticise in the methods used to produce a clean, safe milk.

The main difficulty lies in the time factor between bottling and delivery to the retailer: in winter, milk is sent out from the cooling rooms in the afternoon for delivery to consumers next morning; in hot weather milk is held up in the cooling rooms until 8 p.m. and is delivered throughout the night until 6 a.m. The change-over from cold weather system to the hot weather system may, however, take 48 hours and naturally requires a good deal of judgment. It is hoped to make the change an automatic one - introducing the night delivery system automatically from 1st May to the 1st October; a project for delivery to retailers in insulated vans is also under consideration. The greatest difficulty lies, however, in the final stage - delivery by retailers to consumer. Many retailers have no provision for keeping milk waiting for delivery properly cooled, neither can the consumer be sure of the exact age of the milk when it is delivered into his hands. There is, however, a code cypher on milk bottles which indicates "the date" on which the milk is dispatched from the pasteurisation depot.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal.

The present position under this item is contained in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Housing.

As shown in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, re-housing progress throughout the year has been very satisfactory and the list of applicants for re-housing is steadily falling. Cases of overcrowding also show a definite fall. On the other hand the Housing Survey carried out during the past three years has revealed the fact that there are 152 houses now listed as "not repairable at reasonable expense", i.e. houses fit only for demolition.

Perhaps the greatest and most responsible task of your Council is the provision of adequate housing of a good standard; but in carrying out this duty it is some consolation to know that satisfactory housing is the essential key which opens the way to improvement in public health. Without the foundation of good housing the whole structure of public health is insecure.

The benefits of good housing are more far-reaching than may immediately appear: by checking overcrowding, tuberculosis is prevented and more easily contained and cured; the spread of infectious diseases is checked and isolation of infectious cases is more easily arranged in the home; the provision of handy washing facilities makes personal hygiene less of a problem and so contributes considerably to the control of the many diseases conveyed by unwashed hands; proper facilities for food storage lessens the chances of food poisoning; above all, the mental effect of a good home by stimulating a sense of well being and security among so many families makes an essential contribution to the morale of the entire community.

Mothers with poor home conditions, discouraged and frustrated, find little time or inclination to avail themselves of the public health amenities provided for them and their children.

Conclusion.

Your Medical Officer of Health would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers, members of the Council, and staff, for the great kindness, courtesy and help extended to him since his recent appointment to your Council, and to the Chief Clerk and staff at the Central Office, Norwich, for the considerable work carried out in the preparation of Annual reports.

signed W.E. Holmes

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

WYMONDHAM URBAN DISTRICT.

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	10,950
Estimated Resident Population	5,693
Rateable Value	£24,561
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£97

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	46	37	83
Illegitimate	4	3	7
Total	50	40	90

Live Birth Rate per 1,000
of estimated Resident Population

Wymondham Urban District ... 15.8
(Area 5 14.38)

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000
total births,

Wymondham Urban District ... 10.9
(Area 5 17.1)

Table 4. DEATHS (all ages).

Males	Females	Total
34	31	65

Crude Death Rate

per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population

Wymondham Urban District ... 11.4
(Area 5 10.9)

Table 5. INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths of Infants under One Year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	2	2

Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births.

Wymondham Urban District ... 22.2
(Area 5 34.8)

NOTE

Area 5 comprises Depwade & Loddon R.D's and Diss & Wymondham U.D's

Table 6.

CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Males	Females	Total
23. Pneumonia	-	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases. (Prematurity)	-	1	1
Totals	-	2	2

Table 7.

CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar-General).

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic reoplasms.	4	1	5
15. Leukemia, Aleukemia.	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	5	7	12
18. Coronary disease, angina.	8	10	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	-	-	-
20. Other heart diseases.	6	3	9
21. Other circulatory diseases.	-	3	3
22. Influenza.	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	-	1	1
24. Bronchitis.	-	2	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea.	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth & abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined diseases.	8	2	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-	-
34. All other accidents.	-	-	-
35. Suicide.	1	-	1
36. Homicide & operations of war.	-	-	-
Totals	34	31	65

Table 8.

NOTIFICATION OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1953
(According to Age Group)

				Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year				-	2	2
1 and under	5			-	-	-
5 "	"	10		-	-	-
10 "	"	20		-	-	-
20 "	"	30		1	-	1
30 "	"	40		1	-	1
40 "	"	50		1	-	1
50 "	"	60		1	5	6
60 "	"	70		10	7	17
70 "	"	80		13	10	23
80 "	"	90		8	3	11
90 "	"	100		-	3	3
100 and over				-	-	-
Total				35	30	65

It is pointed out that there is a discrepancy between the sexes of the number of deaths recorded in this table which is based on actual death notifications received and those of Tables 4 and 7 which are compiled from information given by the Registrar-General.

Table 9.

SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES COMPARED WITH
AREA 5, AND THE WHOLE OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
<u>Live Births (per 1,000 pop.)</u>	(116)	(85)	(87)	(97)	(80)	(80)	(90)
Wymondham Urban District.	21.3	15.4	15.6	17.2	14.1	14.1	15.8
Area 5.	18.3	15.7	14.5	14.9	15.4	15.6	14.3
England and Wales.	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5
<u>Still Births (per 1,000 total Births)</u>	(5)	(1)	(2)	(4)	(5)	(nil)	(1)
Wymondham Urban District.	41.3	11.6	22.5	39.6	58.8	0.0	10.9
Area 5.	27.8	30.4	27.0	23.0	26.8	28.0	17.1
England and Wales.	-	-	-	-	-	22.6	22.4
<u>Crude Deaths (per 1,000 pop.)</u>	(65)	(71)	(71)	(62)	(84)	(81)	(65)
Wymondham Urban District.	11.9	12.8	12.7	11.0	14.8	14.1	11.4
Area 5.	12.7	12.9	13.3	12.1	14.0	12.6	10.9
England and Wales.	12.0	11.8	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4
<u>Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)</u>	(4)	(8)	(1)	(1)	(4)	(1)	(2)
Wymondham Urban District.	34.8	94.1	11.4	10.3	50.0	12.5	22.2
Area 5.	32.4	31.8	21.0	14.5	27.5	28.8	34.8
England and Wales.	41.0	34.0	32.0	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.8

NOTE Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Wymondham U.D.

Table 10.

1953 - VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1953.
Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England & Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Census)	Area 5
<u>Rates per 1,000 Home Population</u>				
<u>Births</u>				
Live Births	15.5	17.0	15.7	14.3
Still Births	(0.35	0.43	0.34	0.25
	(22.4(a)	24.8(a)	21.4(a)	17.1(a)
<u>Deaths</u>				
All Causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	10.9
Typhoid & paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.07
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.1
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioenceph- alitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.32
<u>Notifications (Corrected)</u>				
Typhoid fever..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Scarlet fever..	1.39	1.50	1.44	0.87
Whooping cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	4.17
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.27
Smallpox.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	2.72
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.90
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioenceph- alitis)...				
Paralytic... ..	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.12
Non-paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.00
Food poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.32
Puerperal pyrexia	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	5.13
<u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</u>				
<u>Deaths</u>				
All causes under 1 year of age..	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	34.8
Enteritis & diarrhoea under 2 years of age..	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.0

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

Table 10 (Continued)

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND and WALES

Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women age 15 to 44
A115. Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium... ..	68	0.10	
A116. (Abortion with toxæmia. (Other toxæmias of (pregnancy and the (puerperium... ..	7	0.01	1
	166	0.24	
A117. Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth... ..	90	0.13	
A118. Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	30	0.04	3
A119. Abortion with sepsis	39	0.06	4
A120. Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium... ..	1.25	0.18	

Table 11. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
(ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS)

	Under 1	1-2 yrs	3-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-24	Over 25	Total
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	1	4	3	1	-	9
Measles	-	3	3	6	-	-	-	12
Whooping Cough.	5	14	22	36	1	-	-	78
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	5
Infective Jaundice.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Paralytic Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Dysentery (Sonne).	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Psittacosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	5	17	26	49	4	3	5	109

Table 12. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING 1953 (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

	QUARTERS				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Scarlet Fever..	4	4	1	-	9
Whooping Cough.	-	1	4	73	78
Measles.	6	6	-	-	12
Pneumonia.	4	-	-	1	5
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis.	-	-	1	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	1	1	2
Dysentery (Sonne).	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-	-	-
Psittacosis.	1	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1	-	1
Total	15	11	8	75	109

Table 13. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING LAST FIVE YEARS

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Scarlet Fever.	2	9	9	15	9
Whooping Cough.	1	65	35	8	78
Measles.	27	157	3	48	12
Pneumonia.	4	2	2	6	5
Encephalitis (post infectious)	-	2	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	5	1	5	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	1	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	3	3	-	1	2
" " (Non-paralytic)	3	-	1	2	1
Infective Hepatitis.	1	5	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1	-	1
Food Poisoning.	-	-	1	4	-
Dysentery.	-	-	-	1	-
Malaria (Contracted abroad).	-	-	-	1	-
Psittacosis.	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-
Total	43	246	58	86	109

Table 14. TUBERCULOSIS. (Details of New Cases during 1953)

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0-4	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	-	-	-
15-24	-	1	-	-
25-34	-	-	-	-
34-44	-	-	-	-
45-54	-	-	-	-
55-64	-	-	-	1
65-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1	-	1

Table 15. TUBERCULOSIS (NUMBER OF CASES ON T.B.REGISTER AT 31.12.53)

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	17	11	28
Non-pulmonary	5	11	16
Total	22	22	44

Table 16. DETAILS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS.

		1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Pulmonary	M)	1	2	-	3	-
	F)	-	-	1	3	1
Nor-pulmonary	M)	1	-	2	2	-
	F)	-	1	1	1	1
Total		2	3	4	9	2
Area 5. Total		34	31	36	43	24

Table 17. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following is the number of notifications of primary and booster injections received during the last four years in respect of Area 5.

	Primary Injections		Booster Injections		Totals
	Under 5	Age 5-14	Under 5	Age 5-14	
1953	493	392	36	1,855	2,776
1952	371	95	15	589	1,070
1951	460	70	9	178	717
1950	487	100	6	447	1,040

Table 18. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The state of vaccination of children born during the years 1949 to 1953 resident in the Districts and Area 5, is shown in the following tables.

	Wymondham U.D.					Area 5.				
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Number of Live births registered.	87	97	80	80	90	616	590	617	623	574
Number of vaccinations recorded.	46	56	62	68	43 \emptyset	349	345	377	375	324 γ
Percentage vaccinated.	52.8	57.7	77.5	85.0	47.7	56.6	58.4	61.1	60.1	59.5

\emptyset Figures incomplete.

Table 19. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - WYMONDHAM U.D.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Number of deaths.	14	10	13	10	15	14	8
Percentage of total deaths.	21.5	14.0	18.3	16.1	17.8	17.2	12.5

Table 19 (a) DEATHS DUE TO CANCER (AREA 5)

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Number of deaths.	59	83	82	84	86	82	74
Percentage of deaths.	11.7	16.9	16.8	17.3	15.3	16.3	16.9

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wymondham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st. December, 1953.

Staff.

Your Sanitary Inspector holds in addition the appointments of Highway Surveyor, Building Surveyor and Petroleum Inspector and has the services of an additional Sanitary Inspector and a male clerk.

Housing.

The Housing Survey has proceeded during the year, 77 cottages being inspected. On applying the Standard of Fitness adopted by the Council in 1951 the cottages fell into the categories shown below. Details for 1951 and 1952 are also listed.

	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number of houses inspected.	145.	111.	77.	333.
Number of houses fit in all respects.	-	3.	7.	10.
Number of houses repairable at reasonable expense (Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936).	52.	73.	45.	170.
Number of houses not repairable at reasonable expense (Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936).	92.	35.	25.	152.
Number of houses part of which are unsuitable for habitation (Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936).	1.	-	-	1.

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936 and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1953.

Number of undertakings given by owners and accepted by Council to carry out works to make houses fit for habitation ...	...	...	...	...	2.
Number of Demolition Orders made.	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of Closing Orders made ...	...	...	...	...	2.
Number of houses made fit ...	...	...	...	...	2.
Number of houses demolished ...	...	...	...	...	3.
Number of informal notices served ...	...	...	...	...	14.
Number of informal notices complied with.	...	...	...	...	10.

Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of Statutory notices served ...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of informal notices served ...	...	...	...	...	54.
Number of informal notices complied with.	...	...	...	...	35.

The following improvements and repairs have been carried out after formal and informal action.

New sculleries provided	...	...	...	2.
Pailclosets converted to waterclosets..	...	...	...	18.
Vault closets converted to pailclosets.	...	...	...	2.
Houses connected to main water.	...	...	...	13..
New sinks provided	....	...	...	8.
Houses provided with bathrooms.	...	...	...	6.
Roofs repaired.	...	...	...	6.
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	4.
Plaster work to walls repaired.	...	...	...	3.
Dampness to walls remedied	...	....	...	6.
Eaves gutters overhauled	...	...	...	5.
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	5.
Doors repaired.	...	...	...	4.
Fireplaces renewed or repaired.	...	...	...	6.
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4.
Closets repaired.	...	...	...	4.
New foodstores provided	...	...	...	2.
Drains repaired.	...	...	...	2.
Wells deepened..	...	...	...	1.
New drains provided	...	...	...	20.
Septic tanks provided..	...	...	...	3.
External walls repaired	...	...	...	3.

New Housing Progress.

During the year 63 houses were completed and occupied, 54 by the Council and 9 by private enterprise, and at the close of the year 37 were under construction by the Council and 6 by private enterprise.

The position with regard to post-war housing at the end of the year under review was that a grand total of 331 units of habitation had been completed and occupied, 15 temporary and 245 permanent houses built by the Council and 71 by private enterprise. The 245 houses built by the Council are made up as follows:-

129	three bedroom houses.
11	four bedroom houses.
37	bungalows.
29	Duplex houses containing 58 units of accommodation.
1	terrace containing 4 three bedroom houses,
	2 two bedroom flats and 2 one bedroom flats.
2	shops with flats.

Demand for new Houses.

The register of applications for Council houses from persons residing or working in the Urban District showed 141 live applications at 31st. December, 1953. The details of these applications are set out below along with the figures for the three previous years for comparison:-

	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Childless families.	48.	41.	37.	31.
Families with 1 child.	49.	38.	39.	37.
Families with 2 or more children.	57.	57.	32.	26.
Old people requiring bungalows.	54.	56.	41.	47.
	<u>208.</u>	<u>192.</u>	<u>149.</u>	<u>141.</u>

* This figure includes 15 applications from single persons.

The development of the new housing site at Pople Street has continued during the year, and the following dwellings had either been completed or were in course of construction at the end of the year:-

- 32 bungalows.
- 28 three bedroom houses.
- 22 Duplex houses (44 units of habitation).
- 1 terrace containing 4 three bedroom houses, 2 two bedroom flats and 2 one bedroom flats.
- 8 flats.

Overcrowding.

	<u>Housing Act Standard.</u>	<u>Bedroom Standard.</u>
Cases remaining on register 31.12.52.	4.	10.
New cases reported 1.1.53 - 31.12.53.	1.	10.
Cases abated 1.1.53 - 31.12.53		
(a) By action of Local Authority.	2.	13.
(b) Otherwise.	1.	-
Total cases remaining 31.12.53.	2.	7.

The Council has offered alternative accommodation to one of the cases of statutory overcrowding remaining on the list at the end of the year, but the offer was not accepted, the tenant preferring a house in another part of the Town.

Dirty and Verminous Premises.

<u>Bed bugs.</u>	Number of visits of inspection.	Nil.
	Number of rooms fumigated.	Nil.
<u>Fleas.</u>	Number of visits of inspection.	4.
	Number of houses fumigated.	1.
<u>Dirty Houses.</u>	Number of visits of inspection.	12.
	Number of houses cleansed.	3.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There is no camping problem in the Urban District. The few caravans in the area are controlled by the issue of licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Water Supply.

(a). Town Supply.

There is a piped water supply in the Urban part of the district with pumping station situate at Wicklewood in the Rural District of Forehoe and Henstead. The undertaking is owned by the Wymondham Urban District Council.

The Headworks comprise five 12" boreholes each 300 feet in depth, equipped with submersible pumps.

There are between 12 and 13 miles of mains with diameters of from 3" to 7", serving about 2/3rds. of the total population of the Urban District, by gravity.

The mains were extended as follows during the year:-

Chapel Lane 3" main.	85 yards.
Pople Street Housing site, 3" main.	226 yards.
Pople Street Housing site, 4" main.	132 yards.

During the year the Booster Station mentioned in my last report was erected at Becketswell Road to overcome the lack of pressure in the mains. Owing to

lime encrustation in the 7" feed main from the headworks the booster was found to be starved of water and ineffective. At the close of the year a scheme to duplicate the 7" main from the headworks with a new 9" main was receiving the consideration of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The extension of water mains to serve some of the rural parts of the district was again considered.

The result of a chemical analysis of a sample of water taken at the headworks is set out on folio 9.

9 Samples were taken from the mains for Bacteriological examination and in each case the result was the same, viz:-

"This sample is satisfactory".

(b). Other Supplies.

Simple chlorination of the shallow wells serving two small Council housing estates at Spooner Row (12 houses and 6 houses respectively) was continued during the year. Wells serving two private houses were also treated with "chloros" and a high standard of bacterial purity maintained.

Summary of Water Officer's Weekly Reports for the year ended 31st. December, 1953.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Water Pumped and Softened.</u>	<u>Lime used.</u>
January.	7,545,000.	12,806.
February.	6,026,450.	10,276.
March.	6,055,000.	9,478.
April.	6,424,000.	9,422.
May.	7,840,000.	12,648.
June.	5,236,000.	9,834.
July.	5,498,000.	10,019.
August.	7,114,000.	12,968.
September.	5,197,000.	10,300.
October.	6,625,000.	12,558.
November.	5,173,000.	9,732.
December.	5,158,500.	8,694.
	<u>73,891,950.</u>	<u>128,735.</u>
1952.	<u>70,735,350.</u>	<u>134,001.</u>
Increase	<u>3,156,600.</u>	Decrease <u>5,266. lb.</u>

= 57 tons 9 cwts. 47 lb. lime used.

Decrease 2 tons 7 cwts. 2 lb.

1.7422 lb. of lime used per 1,000 gallons.

<u>Connections.</u>	<u>From Main to Stop-Cock.</u>	<u>From Stop-Cock to Premises.</u>	<u>Meters Installed.</u>
January.	1.	6.	-
February.	8.	9.	-
March.	-	1.	-
April.	1.	8.	1.
May.	2.	6.	-
June.	-	-	-
July.	1.	6.	-
August.	-	5.	-
September.	1.	-	-
October.	2.	15.	-
November.	-	4.	-
December.	<u>2.</u>	<u>6.</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>18.</u>	<u>66.</u>	<u>1.</u>

Parish of Hethersett consumed (to 30.6.53).	1,525,990	galls.
Parish of Hingham consumed.	12,970,730	"
Wymondham alone consumed.	59,395,230	"
Average daily consumption in Wymondham.	263,175	"
Average daily consumption in Hingham.	35,634	"
Consumption through meter (including Hingham and Hethersett).	24,231,709	"
1952.	23,615,096	"
increase of	<u>616,613</u>	"

Number of Consumers.

Meters 58. Special arrangement 22. Building Supplies 11.
Domestic 1410. Total 1501.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The system of sewerage in the Town is a partially separate system. It was originally intended that it should be a separate system, but a considerable quantity of storm water now finds its way into the foul sewers.

Foul water and storm water sewer extensions were made during the year on to the new housing site in Pople Street. The lengths involved were 246 yards of 6" storm water sewer and 216 yards of 6" foul water sewer.

The position with regard to the proposed additions to the sewage works is similar to that reported in my last report. At the close of the year the Council was awaiting the observations of the Norfolk County Council on the scheme prepared by the Engineers.

In December 1953 work was commenced on the construction of a small Sewage Disposal Works to serve 14 Council Houses at Spooner Row.

Your Council has no scheme in operation for the emptying of cesspools in the district. Arrangements are made with the adjoining Rural Council to empty cesspools when necessary, the owners of the cesspools paying the Rural Council direct for the service.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour. One motor vehicle, a 7 cubic yard "Karrier", and 2 men are employed on the work which consists of emptying weekly:-

133 pailclosets.
1345 dustbins.

During the year 25 pailclosets were converted to waterclosets and 11 pailclosets not previously emptied by the workmen were added to the list.

A scheme is in operation whereby your Council supplies a closet set, free of cost, where an owner agrees to carry out the work of closet conversion.

Of the 133 pailclosets emptied by your workmen 92 are situated where water and sewer are available and they could be connected to these services; 41 are outside the area of sewer and water and without extension of the services connections will not be possible.

Another factor having a bearing on the conversion of the closets is the condition of the properties concerned, and of the 92 mentioned above at least 49 are very poor cottages which would not be repairable at reasonable expense. It is very doubtful, therefore, whether these cottages are worth the expense of closet conversions.

Trade refuse is also collected from a number of business premises for which service the owners are charged 6d. in the £ of the rateable value of the premises.

The scavenging area has not been extended during the year and remains the same, viz:-

Norwich Road - as far as the "Old Oak" Public House.
Browick Road - as far as the Council Houses.
Silfield Road - as far as Colls Farm.
London Road - including the two cottages near Longfields House.
Cavick Road - as far as the river.
To the North of the Town, Tuttle's Lane is roughly the limit of collection.

During the year a bulldozer was used to level and seal the refuse tip. Land at Strayground Lane adjoining the existing tip was purchased and tipping was commenced on the new extension.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Regular visits of inspection have been made to food premises of all types, and improvements have been effected to some as a result of informal action.

Details of the food shops in the district are as follows:-

Butchers' Shops.	7
Grocers' Shops.	25
Catering Establishments. ..	7
Fishmongers' Shops.	6
Greengrocers' Shops.	4
Licensed Premises. ..	23
Bakehouses.	6

Bakehouses.

An informal notice to recondition one of the bakehouses in the town has not yet been complied with although a considerable amount of work has been carried out.

Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops.

Two slaughter houses in the district are used for the occasional slaughter of pigs for home consumption by agreement with the Ministry of Food.

The following work has been carried out following informal action:-

Main water laid on to shops.	1
New sinks provided.	1
Refrigerators repairs.	1
Premises redecorated.	2
Pailclosets converted to Water-closets.	1

Fish Shops.

2 informal notices were served on owners and both were complied with during the year.

Grocers and Greengrocers' Shops.

The following work has been carried out following informal action:-

Main water laid on to shops.	2
New sinks provided.	1
Premises redecorated.	1
Pailclosets converted to Water-closets.	3
Washing facilities provided.	2

Milk.

There are no dairy retailers of milk in the district apart from the producer-retailer.

The only distributor in the district is registered in an adjoining district and is issued with a supplementary licence by your Council to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested".

Public Houses.

New sanitary conveniences were provided at 2 public houses in the district, there are however still notices outstanding on 4 public houses to improve sanitary accommodation. Main water was laid on to one public house.

Premises Registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

Manufacture of sausages etc.	...	7.
Manufacture of ice-cream.	...	Nil.
Sale of ice-cream.	...	18.

Ice Cream Samples.

Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination - 12.

Grade I	...	8.
Grade II	...	4.
Grade III	...	Nil.
Grade IV	...	Nil.

Food Condemned during 1953.

Corned Beef.	...	26 lbs.
Tinned Fruit.	...	6 tins.
Evaporated Milk.	...	6 tins.
Luncheon Meat.	...	2 tins.
China Egg.	...	16 lbs.
Tinned Ham.	...	7 lbs.
Tinned Steak.	...	2 tins.
Pigs Plucks.	...	1.

All food surrendered was disposed of at the Council's refuse tip.

Factories.

The following table gives details of the number of factories in the district together with notices served to remedy defects found in the course of inspections of the various factories.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections Made.</u>	<u>Notices Served.</u>
Factories with mechanical power.	46	82	4
Factories without mechanical power.	5	4	-
Total.	51	86	4

Number of cases in which defects were found:-

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred.</u>	
			<u>to H.M.I.</u>	<u>by H.M.I.</u>
Want of cleanliness.	2	2	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation.	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences.				
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable.	4	2	-	-
Total.	6	4	-	-

Included in the above table are two factories where new sanitary blocks were provided, new waterclosets, wash basins and main water being made available.

Rodent Control.

The position with regard to rodent control remains the same as last year.

One of the Council's employees, a trained rodent operative, continues to give part time to this service.

Set out below is a copy of the report made to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the performance of the Council's functions under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Type of Property.				
	L.A.	Dwelling Houses.	Agricultural.	Business.	Total.
1. Number of properties in L.A.'s District.	7	1739	71	227	2044
2. Properties inspected by L.A. (a) as a result of (a) survey (b) notification or (c) otherwise.	7	861	18	85	971
	-	53	1	5	59
	-	430	3	81	514
3. Properties under (2) found Major to be infested by rats. Minor	2	32	15	2	51
	1	202	-	13	216
4. Properties under (2) found to be infested by mice.	-	2	-	-	2
5. Properties under (3) and (4) treated by Local Authority.	3	236	1	5	245
6. Number of notices served under Section 4.	-	-	14	1	15

Test Baits were laid in 10% of the manholes of the sewerage system, but as no bait was taken treatment was not continued.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

R. F. HUDSON,
C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample received from the Wymondham Urban District Council.

Marked: Wymondham Public Supply from pumping main of Wymondham
Waterworks. 21.12.53.

Appearance when received: Clear. Small greeny-yellow deposit.

Nature of deposit: Sand and iron particles.

Colour: Yellowy.

Odour: Earthy.

Reaction: Neutral.

Taste: Satisfactory.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Ammoniacal nitrogen:	0.07
Albuminoid nitrogen:	0.02
Nitrate nitrogen:	Nil.
Nitrite nitrogen:	0.004
Chlorine as chlorides:	20.0

Opinion: The organic quality of this water is very good and the analysis as a whole differs but slightly from that of November, 1952. As on that occasion, a trace of iron was present, giving the water a slight yellowish colour, and a few particles of fine sand were also present in the sample. This water is, in our opinion, free from pollution and fit for drinking purposes.

